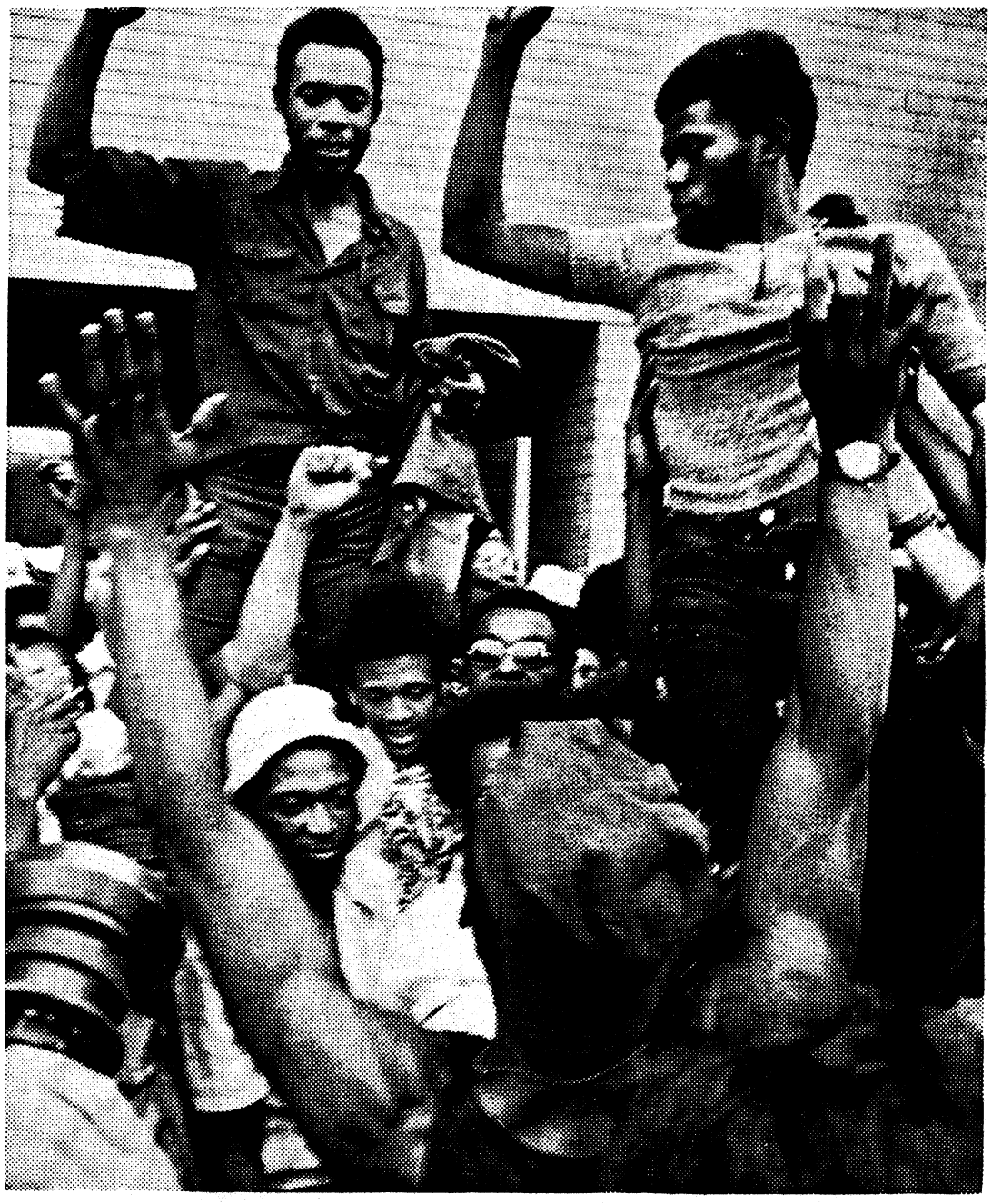

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IF YOU ARE MISSING A PAGE OR GET A BADLY PRINTED GRAPHIC, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL SEND YOU ANOTHER SOON

AN EYEWITNESS REPORT FROM SAIGON: "WORSE FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE CITIES THAN EVER BEFORE."

LIBERATION News Service

(Editor's note: Vietnam is off the front pages now that the American presence has been drastically reduced. However fighting continues in the countryside between the liberation forces and the South Vietnamese army.

The Saigon government can be sure only of some of the cities. For only in the cities -- particularly Saigon -- can the government keep an eye on everyone. Those people who the government finds at all suspicious or who can't give an adequate explanation of their activities, are rounded up and taken away to the infamous South Vietnamese prisons, most of which have been built or maintained by U.S. funds. There are estimated to be a minimum of 200,000 political prisoners in South Vietnam.

The following is a report by Fred Branfman who visited Saigon from June 8-July 28. Branfman, author of Voices from the Plain of Jars, works at the Indochina Resource Center in Washington, D.C. He was in Laos from 1967 to 1971 and visited Saigon previously in 1970. The article, which has been slightly shortened, originally appeared in Indochina Focal Point put out by the Indochina Peace Campaign.)

I was half hoping to find the war over for obvious reasons. Not only is it not over, but it is probably worse for the people of Saigon and the cities than ever before.

The political survival of the Thieu regime depends on its ability to control the tremendous desire for peace that exists in every one.

Thieu has to maintain a warlike atmosphere, has to be tough on deserters, has to be tough on the civilian population. But it is not simply that they are mean men who like to arrest people. Thieu is in a position where he cannot compete politically with the Provisional Revolutionary Government, and thus he has to resort to arrest.

I personally find the figure of 200,000 political prisoners quite credible. I say this because of my talks with the Committee to Reform the Prison System of South Vietnam which is led by a Catholic priest Father Chan Tin. I saw their prison-by-prison break-down and talked with them about their sources. They feel the figure is much higher but they purposely kept to the conservative figure (202,000).

Whether or not there are 200,000 political prisoners, we can see that the release of 5,081 promised by Thieu will not alter the overall picture. The mass arrests are continuing.

The things that the Thieu government, with the help of the U.S., has to do to keep everything in control goes far, far beyond torture.

First there is the surveillance system. I'm not only talking about the 120,000 police, but also the hundreds of thousands of part-time spies. The men on the street corners with dark sunglasses who you see everywhere just peering.

I'm talking about the "brown books." Every family in Saigon has a "brown book" with every member of the family listed. At night the Saigon police make sweeps over vast areas of the city, knocking at doors of thousands of families. If you have seven people listed in your brown book and there are six or eight people home, you better have a good explanation or money to pay for the right answer. Or else you are going to lose somebody in your family.

Part of this surveillance system are the dossiers of 15 million Vietnamese stored in a central computer bank in Saigon. Police agents can now pick up someone in the country and request to Saigon for information about him or her.

Then, there's the arrest procedure. Sometimes police wait in homes two weeks, three weeks, a month. I talked to people who had police living in their house, camped out that way, for as long as three months.

The interrogation is also an important part of the system. Through torture, people are forced to give false confessions and false accusations against other people. The South Vietnamese Constitution says you are allowed a lawyer from the moment of arrest, but of course that is not the case in fact.

The sentencing procedures are part of the system, too. I went to Military Tribunal one day. There were five military judges, one of whom was wearing dark glasses glaring down on the defendant.

The judge reads from the confession written by the police that the person was beaten, tortured, coerced into signing. If the defendant disagrees with any aspect of the accusation, he is yelled at by the judge and the prosecutor. After about ten minutes of yelling, the lawyer of the then quaking defendant asks for the mercy of the court.

During the morning, this went on for 30 or 40 people. At twelve o'clock the judges retire to their chambers, come out 15 minutes later and read off the sentences -- 7 years, 10 years, 15 years, 3 years... And that's a trial in Saigon.

And that is if you are lucky. The majority of people do not even get a trial. They are judged by the Security Committee with only the aid of a police dossier. Without questioning or defense, people can be sentenced for up to two years, renewable.

Then the imprisonment -- the lack of food, the tortures and beatings.

The Saigon regime's constant claim that their prisons are open for inspection is totally fabricated. They refuse to allow anyone to visit the prisons including the Red Cross, ICCS, deputies and Senators.

Official Saigon press communiques speak of letters protesting the number of prisoners from all over the world received by the Thieu government. However the government discounts the letters as being "communist" inspired.

I had one striking experience in Saigon which I think gives a deeper sense of who these prisoners are. We were just sitting in this room, and suddenly

the door opens and all we could see was the top of this guy's head, and then he crawls in on his backside. He was one of the tiger cage prisoners -- 14 years in prison.

He had been married before he was arrested and had a child. After he was arrested in 1959, one of the few things that sustained him in prison was love for his wife and his hope that his wife and child were well. Then after 10 years, he found out that his wife had been arrested a few days after him and she too had been in prison for the last 10 years.

He sits for four more years in the tiger cage because he still won't give in, he still won't declare his allegiance to the Thieu regime.

Finally he is released. His family knows nothing of his wife other than that she was arrested 14 years previously. "Where's my son?" "He's disappeared."

So he's now living in Saigon, just living off relatives. I had this tendency to feel very depressed about this whole story, but while he was talking I was very struck by his firmness and the light in his eyes.

I asked him, "What do you want now?" And he said, "All I want is to regain the use of my legs so I can continue the struggle.

"I want peace for my country, and I want the political prisoners to be freed."

I remember being surprised because you'd think he would say, 'I want to see my wife,' or 'I want to have a job' or something. So I asked, "What do you want for yourself?" And he just said, " I want to be left alone to do what I want to do; I have my own plans, and I think these people should just leave me alone after all they've done to me."

And I said, "Do you regret what you did?" And he said, "No, I don't regret a thing. I did what I know is right. Sure I'd do it again despite all I've suffered."

Finally I asked him, "Are you happy?" And he said, "It all depends on what you mean by happiness. But if you want to say do I have something to believe in, do I have a goal, do I have a country, then yes, I'm happy."

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PAN AM IS A PIMP: OFFERS PROSTITUTION GUIDES FOR 5 CITIES

NEW YORK (LNS)--Pan American World Airways has moved into the skin game. Among its special extras for customers are printed cards which tell how and where to meet prostitutes in New York, London, Paris, Rome and Amsterdam.

The cards, which are sold on Pan American planes for $4.95 and also include tourist attractions of the five cities, were produced by Simplified Travel Inc., distributed to bookstores by Random House, and bear Pan American's blue and white insignia.

The package includes five sets of fifty cards each. The card that deals with the city's prostitutes is titled "Low Life." The New York "Low Life" card advises that "the most stunning street creatures ($50) float along East 79th Street between Lexington and First Avenues."

It calls the streetwalkers on lower Third Avenue and those around the Port Authority Bus Terminal "the sorriest numbers" and also warns that some of those around Times Square "are on hard drugs and carry knives and razors."

"Yes, they do still exist," claims the London "Low Life" card, "notably in Shepherd's Market, the Bayswater-Queensway area and Soho, but they're illegal, priced 10 to 20 pounds ($25 to $50) and tough as nails." Prospective customers are further warned against the prostitutes who advertise "Beautiful Model Upstairs" on the doors next to shops. "These girls are terrific," states the card, "as historians of the First World War."

Speaking of the bordellos, the Paris card announces that, "the two biggest and, by acclaim, best ones are in the 16th Arrondissement...the houses are beautifully furnished...liveried staff and maids are discreetly in attendance...the prices range from 300 to 2,000 francs ($69 to $460) for starlet-style lovely."

"Amsterdam's Other Flowers," the Dutch guide says, "abound in the Zeedijk district, near the main railroad station, where the prices start at 15 guilders and run up to 75 ($6 to $30). You will see girls in windows. You will see girls in the street. Some even pursue you by bicycle."

"Low Life" for Rome advises, "The best of the sidewalk girls are to be found on the lower part of the Via Veneto just below the USIS (United States Information Service) library. In addition to their 20,000 lira to 30,000 lira fee you'll have to pay 6,000 lira to 10,000 lira for the hotel room." That comes to between $43 and $166.

"When the guides were brought to us by the publisher for our sponsorship, we did question the inclusion of the 'Low Life' cards," said a spokesman for Pan American, "but we were convinced that they were a legitimate part of the guide."

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GULF BOYCOTT BROCHURE AVAILABLE

NEW YORK (LNS)--The American Committee on Africa, a New York based research group, has released a new brochure, WHY WE PROTEST GULF OIL IN ANGOLA, to support the growing Gulf Boycott campaign. Gulf is the largest U.S. investor in the Portuguese African colonies of Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique and in 1972 paid Portugal of $60 million in tax and royalty payments.

The brochure gives up-to-date info on Gulf's importance to Portuguese colonialism and outlines the growing boycott campaign. Copies are available for 15¢ (bulk rates available) from the American Committee on Africa, 164 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016. --30--

THE PHILIPPINE RICE FAMINE:
THE HARVEST OF MARCOS POLICY

by Elaine Elinson

LIBERATION News Service

MANILA (LNS)--To anyone who was in Manila last summer, the current news of the disasterous rice famine in the Philippines comes as no surprise. Nor can it be believed when the Marcos government lables the famine a "Natural disaster" or tries to blame it on the Moslem rebellion on the island of Mindanao, in the Southern Philippines.

The roots of the current shortage can instead be found in the government policy over the past ten years encouraging the growth of lumber companies. This has decimated the forests of northern Luzon and in turn has resulted in the flooding and destruction of the rice growing lands in the low areas of central Luzon, the Philippine's main rice growing region.

The tremendous summer floods of last year not only wiped out the 1972 rice crop, but left layers of washed-up sand in the once fertile region, making the cultivation of future rice crops in the area impossible as well. According to Alexander Melchior, head of the government's flood relief program, "Those fields [the rich rice growing areas of central Luzon] are now ruined for rice unless the sand can be cleared off. Maybe they will never grow rice again."

In a country where most of the people eat two or more cups of rice at every meal the implications of that statement are overwhelming. The present situation is that both private and government rice stocks have been totally depleted, forcing radio broadcasts urging people to eat corn grits instead.

As evidenced by Melchior's statement, which was made in 1972, the Marcos government was well aware of the impeding rice crisis. Before martial law was declared in September 1972, there were numerous protests over the lenient government policies on extractive industries, and as early as 1969 the Manila Free Press warned, "The whole logging industry must take drastic measures in cooperation with the government to stop deforestation in the Philippines if it is to prevent the imposition of a total ban on logging upon the angry demand of a by-then desperate populace."

The Manila Free Press was too optimistic, though, for the protests of the people whose lives depend on rice were ignored by the logging companies and by the government.

Still, as late as the last week in July when commercial rice stocks ran out, Marcos assured the people that the government had enough on hand to feed them. And on the eve of the Marcos-controlled referendum on July 27 and 28, President Marcos gave an order to the National Grains Authority: "Flood the markets with rice."

Marcos reported that the referendum gave him a 91 percent majority to remain in power indefinitely after his term of office expires at the end of this year. The votes were still coming in when the white rice disappeared from the market.

Yet, now as in the past, the government is doing virtually nothing to ease the situation except for patchwork measures such as temporary and localized bans on deforestation, massive rice imports and the push to eat corn. In fact, since martial law Marcos has relaxed even more laws governing extractive industries, especially those laws affecting foreign companies.

The timber industry in the Philippines grew rapidly after World War II to meet Japan's lumber needs for reconstruction. In the sixties there were increased imports to the U.S. as well. As a result, lumber is the largest export commodity in the country, representing 23 percent of the total exports.

At present, U.S. corporations not only dominate the market for Philippine wood, but they are starting to control the lumber industry as well. The U.S. conglomerates, Weyerhauser Corporation, Boise-Cascade and Georgia Pacific are all listed among the top ten lumber companies in the Philippines.

In response to the needs of the U.S. and Japan for raw materials, the Philippine government has encouraged both domestic and foreign investment in extractive industry. This encouragement has allowed the lumber companies to expand with little thought to the environment or the economy as a whole.

Over 420,000 acres of forest land are destroyed each year--the fastest rate of land destruction in the world. Only 52,000 acres are reforested each year (and this process only began in 1968), resulting in a destruction rate over eight times higher than the reforestation.

Heavy rains and even floods hit the central Luzon area every year and do not bode misfortune. In fact, an over-abundance of rainfall is necessary to the kind of wet-rice cultivation method that Filipinos employ. It was not the rains alone then that spelled diaster in 1972.

As a result of the lumber companies' reckless and unregulated deforestation in the north, when the yearly typhoons hit the Philippines last summer, there were no trees on the northern slopes to prevent massive soil erosion and the depositing of thick layers of sand on the once fertile central valley area.

At the time, even the Marcos government conceded the lumber companies' role in the land destruction, and as a token stop-gap measure, suspended logging operations near the river banks of Luzon at the time of the floods.

More far-reaching measures, however, are continuing to encourage deforestation by the logging industry. After martial law in 1972, President Marcos overturned a Philippine Supreme Court decision and declared that the Parity Amendment, allowing U.S. corporations the same rights as Filipino citizens in exploiting the natural resources of the country, will continue indefinitely. Moreover, early in 1973, the Manila government announced that there were to be increased incentives for the exploitation of timberlands for foreign investors.

In a New York Times advertisement entitled,

"Haven for Foreign Investors," the Philippine government stated,"Under the Investments Incentives Act, the BOI [Board of Investment] sets up an anual Investment Priorities Plan defining the various agro-industries [including logging]...as preferred areas of investment...Basic guarentees are offered ...repatriation of investments, convertibility into foreign currency, freedom from expropriation and requisition and..various tax incentives."

Government regulation of the lumber companies' massive deforestation, with a mind to its effect on the rest of the country's ecology and economy, might have prevented the destruction of the rice lands. But the protests of the Philippine citizens and press went unheeded. The rice crop--as late as three years ago an export commodity--has been drastically reduced not only this year, but for yaers to come.

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MARINES REPEL "ARGOSIAN" INVADERS; HOLD WARGAMES ON MIDDLE EAST MODEL

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Cal. (LNS)--Nine thousand active duty and reserve Marines carried out the most extensive desert training exercises of their kind in U.S. history this summer, according to U.S. News and World Report.

And, although officials say no parallels are to be drawn between what the Pentagon is calling "operation Alkali Canyon" and the Middle East, Most troops taking part in the exercises have been lectured in desert politics and survival. The "aggressors" in the wargames, according to a Time Magazine report, were clothed in khaki shirts and red collar insignia "similar to those worn by the Libyan army."

Opposing sides in the fictious scenario were the "peaceloving desert nation of Argos" and the aggressor nation of Yermo, "armed with sophisticated Communist weaponry."

The maneuvers, which took place at a Marine base in California's Mojave Desert, included reservists fromm all over the country--the reasoning being that with Marine recruitment down, the Pentagon needs to know how their reservists might function in combat, just in case.

One private from Akron, Ohio wasn't too happy about his role. "These peopple are gung-ho, but I'm just going to play the game. I can give you my opinion of this entire operation in two words: Fuck it."

Games like this are nothing new. Said one Colonel, "The Pentagon has a computer plan for the invasion of every civilized country in the world. The Middle East is the obvious powder keg, and we'd be a fool if we didn't prepare."

Officially, the purpose of the operation was described as training Marines to "repel invaders and preserve American lives and property." "They told us not to say anything political," said one Corporal. "We can't even use Israel as a hypothetical example." But one staff sergeant could not control his exuberance. "Come on men," he urged as he climbed aboard his tank, "we're out here to get practice so we can grab the oil." --30--

LAST OF CAMP ALLEN BROTHERS CONVICTED ON 5 COUNTS STEMMING FROM BRIG REBELLION

NORFOLK, Va. (LNS)--The longest single court-martial in this military dominated city endd on Saturday, August 11, after 14 days. Airman Apprentice A. Q. Johnson was sentenced to 18 months confinement at hard labor, rank demotion, loss of allpay and allowances, and a bad conduct discharge.

Twenty-year old Johnson had been singled out out by the Navy brass as the "ringleader" of the November 26, 1972 rebellion in the Camp Allen brig at Norfolk. As a result of the incident,13 black sailors were charged, tried and convicted and sentenced on counts ranging from disrespect to attempted murder (the latter charge was placed against Michael Daigre, who beat it in court).

Johnson was the last of the defendents to be brought to trial and was facing 8 charges with 23 specifications, which meant a possible sentence of more than 100 years and a dishonorable discharge. He was finally convicted of five of the specifications: disobeying a noncommissioned officer, willful destruction of government property, riot, use of provoking speech or gestures, and assault.

After Johnson was convicted, his defense was allowed to offer testimony as "mitigation"--that is, to offer reasons why he may have committed the "crimes" in question. They cited the following factors as causes of the disturbance: continual harassment of the confinees by the brig guards, racial prejudice in the medical department, a disproportionate amount of discipline being directed against black pisoners, written requests not being delivered to the proper authorities as required by law, and the polarization of white and black confinees in the brig.

The defense also referred to previous testimony by Kenneth Olfred, a white sailor who was in Camp Allen brig last November. Olfred had testified that blacks were given the inferior jobs in the brig and that some guards would make blacks do the same tasks over and over again as harassment. He also explained that whites confined to their cells were fed before confined blacks--who were fed cold food--and that there was no response given when complaints were made through the chain of command.

Olfred had testified that in his opinion there would have been no rebellion were it not for these complaints. The board, however, maintained the convictions.

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TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS

Well, summer is coming to a close and as with summers in New York (and especially in our basement) it has been hot and sticky. And, as with other summers at LNS, it has been a rough one for money. We've had to get a couple of typewriters fixed and meet a couple other unexpected expenses. If you haven't sent us anything in a while, now would be a good time. Thanks alotffrom LNS

THOUSANDS MARCH AT SLAIN FARMWORKERS' FUNERALS; UFW STRIKE SPREADS THROUGH CALIFORNIA

by Bob Barber
LIBERATION News Service

DELANO, Cal. (LNS) -- More than 10,000 farmworkers marched silently through this small agricultural town August 17 in memory of an Arab farmworker who was killed by a policeman three days earlier in Lamont, 45 miles to the south.

And in Arvin, near Lamont, five thousand more marched for the funeral of a 60-year-old farmworker who was shot and killed on the picket line on August 16.

The deaths of the two striking United Farmworkers Union members has brought picketing by more than 3000 strikers in the San Joaquin Valley to a temporary halt, as the farmworkers mourn their loss and the UFW attempts to avert more killings. But picketing continues to the north in the wine grape fields around Livingston and Stockton.

The marching farmworkers were grim and angry in the wake of the two killings, the first in the four month strike by the UFW against California's giant grape growing corporations. "They say the union doesn't have the support of the people, of the workers," one striker said bitterly during the march in Delano. "What does this mean, then, all these people here? Even some scabs are marching with us." Farmworkers came to Delano from all over California and as far away as Arizona for the procession.

The march honored Nagi Daiffullah, a 24-year-old farmworker from Yemen, who was killed by a Kern County sheriff's deputy outside a tavern where strikers had gathered after an evening union meeting. According to eyewitnesses, Daiffullah tossed a beer bottle into the street in the direction of the deputy, who then grabbed Daiffullah and beat him on the back of his head with a flashlight. He was dragged unconscious 40 or 50 feet.

Daiffullah's death has thrown a spotlight onto a little known aspect of the farmworkers' struggle -- the role of workers from Arab countries, especially Yemen. There are more than 1200 Yemini workers in the San Joaquin Valley, most of them imported by the growers as a source of cheap labor.

Just as with Filipino and Puerto Rican workers brought to California under similar conditions, the Arabs are tightly controlled by the growers through labor contractors who speak both Arabic and English, and through company-owned labor camps. "If we could provide housing," Cesar Chavez said recently, "we'd have a lot more strikers. If the Arabs strike, they are booted out of the camps, and where are they going to live?"

(Seventy-one families of Mexican and Portuguese strikers near Livingston have refused to leave a Gallo Wine Company labor camp despite harassment and legal action by the company.)

Daiffullah and several hundred other Yeminis joined the grape strike, however. More than 400 marched at the head of his funeral procession, carrying his coffin draped with Yemini and UFW flags. The memorial service held after the march was conducted in Arabic, Spanish, and English.

Speaking at the service, UFW director Cesar Chavez requested that all members and supporters of the union observe a three day fast beginning August 20.

"Daiffullah came to this country seeking opportunity, and fell into the trap of poverty and powerlessness that has enslaved so many migrant farmworkers in the United States," Chavez said. "Although brother Nagi is dead at the age of 24, the hand that struck him down trembles in fear. It too is a victim of the climate of violence, racism, and hatred created by those men who own everything and that kill those men they cannot dominate."

Another funeral procession was held August 21 for Juan de la Cruz, a 60-year-old striker who was one of the first farmworkers to leave the fields and join Cesar Chavez during the first grape strike in 1965. De la Cruz was shot and killed by strikebreaking workers who fired upon a caravan of cars leaving a picket line.

This attack occurred several minutes after Kern County sheriff's deputies patrolling the picket line left the area. Incidents of this type appear to be emerging as a pattern around Lamont and Delano, where shootings occur in the sudden and unexplained absence of police. Often, strikers who attempt to enter the fields to make citizens' arrests of the snipers are themselves beaten and arrested for trespassing. In most cases the picket line itself is ordered to disband as an "illegal assembly."

In another incident, sheriff's deputies allowed a group of 25 strikebreakers to come out of a field armed with boards and bottles to attack a picket line and injure several people, before finally moving into restrain them.

In the wake of the recent killings, Cesar Chavez has made it clear that the strike will continue. Following a vote of the union leadership, however, picketing in the Delano-Lamont area was suspended for several days in mid-August while the UFW awaited a response from the Justice Department to the union's demand for federal protection against the attacks.

Chavez said he also wanted the Justice Department to investigate charges by strikers that the Immigration Service is checking pickerers for alien registration papers while allowing hundreds of "illegals" -- Mexican citizens not holding the required visas -- to break the strike by working in the fields.

The focus of the strike has shifted from the Lamont-Arvin area north to the Delano area, heart of the table grape industry, and original home of the UFW. Strike crews of several hundred continue to picket the Giumarra and Roberts ranches in the Lamont area, though, because these huge corporations also have grape fields in the Delano area where the strike is in full swing.

The strike is also moving north of Delano to Fresno and up further to the wine grape fields of Livingston and Stockton. A number of wine companies have broken off negotiations with the UFW over renewing old contracts, and have signed contracts with

more....

the Teamsters. Over a thousand people have been arrested in the last month in Fresno County in connection with preharvest thining and pruning work.

Close to 500 of these strikers were released recently from Fresno County Jail after spending as long as two weeks there without bail. They had been arrested in late July for violating various court orders restricting the size and positioning of picket lines in the grape fields. Many have vowed to be re-arrested, if necessary to continue the strike.

In a recent interview Chavez explained why the union has turned to mass civil disobedience against the injunctions that restrict picketing. "In 1965 when we started the strike, an injunction was handed down in three days, saying 25 people on each side of the entrance to the field and that was all. We abided by the injunction. Then a few months later, another injunction said, only 10 people on each side of the entrance. And by the time we got to Coachella this spring, they were saying we could only have one striker every 100 feet.

"At that point we talked with the workers and they said 'nothing doing.' If we hadn't started challenging those injunctions with mass arrests, by next year they would have outlawed the strike."

There have been no mass arrests since August 7 in the area from Fresno to Lamont, even though thousands of picketers violate injunctions every day. The spirit of the people who were arrested and their willingness to be rearrested undoubtedly indicated to police that mass arrests only strengthened the strike.

One striker who was released after being locked up for two weeks, said, "In Coachella we had the problem of the teamster goons, but now they have pulled out the goons because they realized the strikers weren't afraid of them. Here we have the problem of the sheriff's department, which acts like the growers' private army. But the arrests stopped too because they realized that they didn't work either. Our people have realized that they have to fight for their rights."

Negotiations with the 30 Delano table grape growers, who control 40% of the industry, broke off July 29, and the strike began the next day. Since the growers did not immediately sign with the Teamsters, the UFW continued to negotiate with the Teamsters for some possible solution.

But on August 10 Chavez angrily walked out of a negotiating session with Teamster officials, charging that the Teamsters had secretly signed contracts with the growers the previous night. This action forced Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons to publicly repudiate the contracts as having been signed by local officials with no authority to do so.

Since then, the local Teamster office in Delano has been closed, and Teamster spokesmen say the contracts are not being implemented and that the issue may have to be decided in the courts. The growers themselves say the contracts are signed and valid.

The Teamsters may be counting on the courts to provide them with a favorable decision on the contracts, thus helping them pull a fast one on the UFW. They lost this test in the Salinas lettuce strike, though, when the California Supreme Court ruled in December, 1972 that the Teamsters had acted in collusion with the growers without any evidence of workers support, and overturned an injunction against UFW lettuce strike activity.

Chavez says that he has information which indicates that Fitzsimmons may be acting in good faith, although the striking workers remain skeptical. "Either they are going to get out of agriculture, or they aren't. If they are, then we can negotiate with them as to how they will get out. If they aren't, then we have nothing to negotiate about.

"You have to remember that the only contracts the Teamsters have gotten is where we have put pressure on the growers," Chavez continued. "If we left agriculture today, they'd never get another contract in the fields. The growers asked them to come in and the growers can ask them to leave."

The key issues are closely related -- the hiring hall and the question of seniority. The UFW wants to eliminate the infamous labor contractor system, where the middleman provides workers for the growers and has absolute control over who works and who doesn't. The contractor system allows the growers to increase production by hiring only young and strong workers, while the union hiring hall distributes jobs equally among all age groups.

The union hiring hall gives union members first chance at all jobs, under union contract with union wages and benefits, and protections.

The continued boycott of grapes will become increasingly important as the harvest goes on. Preliminary union statistics indicate that the Coachella growers have only been able to harvest 2 million boxes of grapes out of a potential 3.5 million, and that a large proportion of those picked are only of second or third label quality. But the union must prevent the growers from selling the grapes that are picked in order to really squeeze the growers' profits.

"The boycott means a lot to us," one striker said. "People around the country now know of our union and our cause, and they realize the power of boycotts in a number of areas. That is where we will win."

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WOMEN'S COLLECTION OF ART, WRITING AVAILABLE

In My Head A Moon, a new collection of poetry, fiction and art work by women from the Washington area is now available. Contributions were not chosen n a central theme, many reflect anger and alienation and others are about love for other women.

Copies are $.75 for students and $1.25 for non-students and can be obtained from Ellen Greenlaw, ASUW Women's Commision, 201 Hub, University of Washington, Seattle 98195.

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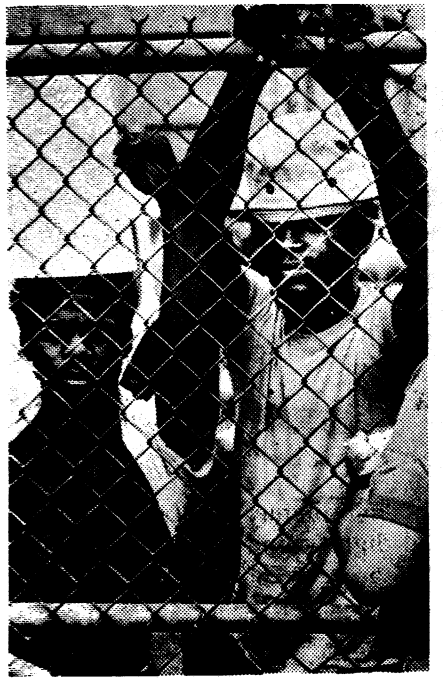

Top right: USDA government inspector checking beef at an Ohio packing company.
See story on page 7
Credit: Ken Light/LNS

Top left: Six of the Gainsville eight in front of the Federal Building where the trial is taking place. Left to right: Pete Mahoney, Alton Foss, Bill Patterson, John Briggs, Don Perdue, Scott Camil
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Middle right: Workers leaving Chrysler's Dodge Main plant in Detroit. Photo was taken in 1970.
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[Note to editors: See graphics section for photo to go with this story. See packet #544 for related story and graphics.]

WOMEN UNITED FOR ACTION FILES COURT SUIT CHARGING BEEF COMPANIES WITH CREATING FALSE SHORTAGES

NEW YORK (LNS)--Women United for Action (WUA), a national organization of women fighting for roll-backs in soaring food prices, has filed a civil, antitrust suit against 23 major companies in the beef industry for conspiring to "create a false shortage" by withholding beef from the market until federal price ceilings are removed on September 12.

The class action suit, filed in Federal District Court in New York on August 24, asks also that damages be paid to consumers by the meat companies and that no further price increases be granted even after September 12.

Representatives from the five largest beef companies on the list have been ordered to show cause in U.S. District Court on August 31 why they should not be enjoined from withholding beef from the market.

These companies include: Tenneco, Inc., Greyhound Corporation (owns Armour Meat Co.), Times-Mirror Corporation (owns the 295,000-acre Tejon Ranch in California with 14,000 head of cattle making it the single largest-operation cattle ranch in the U.S.), Equity Funding (Owns Ankony Cattle Systems), and Wilson and Co.

Laura Fierstein of WUA stated that these companies are the most powerful in the beef industry, controlling production of beef from the ranches to the packing houses.

"The beef industry today is a network of connecting links involving the beef industry with the largest and most diversified companies in the world. As an example, [WUA] cites Tenneco who not only owns ranches and retail stores but owns subsidiaries involved in the manufacture of farm equipment, chemicals, oil production, packaging, etc. This company characterizes the whole beef industry which is largely huge corporations, many of whose main interests are in other fields. The monopoly character of the beef industry can be seen in the fact that less than 1% of this country's farms accounted for 39% of all livestock raised and only 1% of all feedlots feed 62% of all cattle."

Fierstein continued, "There is no reason for beef shortages to exist today. This year cattle production was 15% higher than in 1972, but the huge monopolies are using their control to keep prices high and illegally withhold meat from the market until the beef price freeze is lifted."

Indeed, government and industry spokesmen have themselves admitted that beef has been kept from the market in expectation of receiving higher prices once the price freeze is over.

President of the American Meat Institute, Dr. Herrell DeGraff, admitted that "cattle that are not so far along in the feeding process, can be delayed in their maturity for market, and will indeed be so delayed."

A Nixon advisor told U.S. News and World Report that "not only are the shortages of beef being used as a weapon by the beef industry to gain a higher price on the market for their produce" but they are also being used to "educate" consumers.

"We are going to give the public an education on controls with the beef shortages. We're going to have housewives applauding higher prices soon," concluded the advisor.

Spokeswoman Fierstein answered, "We will not allow our children to go hungry because the beef industry wants to increase their profits and give us 'an education about controls with the beef shortages.' In fact, we will give them an education about fighting back."

* * *

Women United for Action, which now has chapters in 14 states, is planning further consumer actions. They are presently organizing a demonstration in New York City to be held outside the Department of Agriculture and the Internal Revenue Service for September 12, the date on which beef ceiling prices are to be lifted.

WUA is also supporting the National Consumers Congress rally at the Department of Agriculture in Washington D.C. on the same date. For further information contact: WUA, 58 West 25th Street, New York, N.Y. 10010 or call (212) 989-1252.

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GOP PUBLICATION FOLDS FOR LACK OF FUNDS
MONEY MATTERS MAUL MONDAY

WASHINGTON (LNS)--Monday, the Republican Party weekly publication, has become the latest victim of Watergate. In a letter to party contributors, GOP National Chairman George Bush announced the death of Monday explaining that "during the past several weeks the Republican National Committee has suffered a severe decline in contributions."

Always controversial and often quoted, Monday produced such gems as an open letter to the Communist Party, USA on the death of Pablo Picasso, a one time CP member, saying "Now Picasso is a good communist!" It also ran an anti-welfare cartoon that showed a huge black person in a diaper and drinking from a baby bottle while a small, obviously well-off white person looked on.

The publication was terminated over the protests of its editor, John D. Lofton, who is leaving to become a columnist for United Features Syndicate anyway. "At a time that things are going badly, we ought to be slugging harder than ever," said Lofton.

It cost the national committee a reported $25,000 a week to prepare and mail Monday to the 285,000 Republican contributors who give more than $25 annually.

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RALLIES AND SERVICES MARK 2ND YEAR AFTER ATTICA: DEFENSE TO FILE MOTION TO DISMISS CHARGES

LIBERATION News Service

"We're not the criminals. The criminals are Tricky Nixon, the Rockefellers, the Oswalds, those are the criminals. We've got brothers going into the courtroom who were brutalized and assaulted on September 13th and still have got bullets in them.

"What did we do? We stood up and asked to be treated as men. They came in and they showed who the criminals were because they didn't care. Not only didn't they care about us, they didn't care about the police. They killed everybody that was in sight and moving. If anybody's going to be indicted, it should be the administration and the whole government.

"I'm giving you this from what I know, from experience, because I was there on that bloody Monday."

--Frank Smith, one of the 60 prisoners and former prisoners indicted for their part in the Attica rebellion

BUFFALO, NY (LNS)--It will be two years since the Attica Rebellion on September 9 and two years since the Attica Massacre on September 13th.

The grand jury which issued the 60 indictments against prisoners and former prisoners is still in session. Attorney General Robert Fischer announced last March that no indictments will be issued against any of the law enforcement officers who participated in the massacre in which 39 inmates and hostages died. So the grand jury, which has been sitting for 21 months will be issuing more indictments against inmates.

The defense will present a motion to dismiss the charges "in the interests of justice" in State Supreme Court September 5. Among the grounds are :

**The bias of the grand jury. Blacks, Puerto Ricans and young people have been systematically excluded. The grand jury consists entirely of white residents of Wyoming County where there is strong local feelings against the prisoners. Fifteen out of the 23 grand jury members know or are related to people who work at Attica or in law enforcement. Five of them knew someone who was killed or wounded at Attica.

**Judge Carmen Ball allowed the prosecution to question the potential grand jury members for prejudice but did not allow lawyers representing the prisoners to do so.

**Fischer didn't present any evidence about criminal acts by law enforcement personnel nor has the grand jury asked to hear it though many prisoners have offered to testify about it.

**Selective prosecution of the law -- all of the crimes the prisoners have been accused of -- murder, attempted murder, assault, etc. -- have been committed by law enforcement personnel.

**Because the grand jury is still sitting, it is being used to pressure prisoners not to be defense witnesses for fear of being indicted themselves. Coercion to be prosecution witnesses has included the offer of parole if an inmate testifies or denial of parole if the inmate refuses to testify.

**Double jeopardy -- the men who have been indicted have already suffered extreme punishment. Besides those killed, 80 people were wounded. All of those indicted went through retaliations when the prison was retaken. Many of them were kept in segregation for 15 months. The prison conditions themselves (which haven't noticibly changed since the rebellion) are punishment enough.

**What would best serve the interests of justice. "The crime of the Attica Rebellion was their last ditch attempt to tell their story and save their own humanity," says the motion. The conditions before the rebellion caused the men to rebel so it is now an inhuman prosecution of men who stood up to protest inhuman conditions.

* * *

In Buffalo, where the trials have been moved, an Attica Memorial Week is planned. On September 9, people will gather outside Attica to discuss the conditions there today. Many of the members of the observers committee who were inside during the rebellion will be there along with families of men presently in Attica. They will demand to get into the prison to check out the conditions to see if any of the original 28 demands agreed to by the administration have been implemented.

All through the week there will be workshops all over Buffalo--around the university, in the black, Latino and Indian communities. On September 13 there will be a large rally. The speakers will include the mother of L.D. Barkley (who many prisoners say was killed after the rebellion was over), Ben Chavis, Frank Smith, and representatives from Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization and the American Indian Movement.

The National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression is calling for memorial services and meetings in other cities. So far, events are planned in New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, Boston, Detroit, and Charlotte, N.C.

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Money is needed for the defense of the Attica prisoners. Send what you can to the Attica Brothers Defense Fund, the Challenger, 1301 Fillmore, Buffalo, New York, NY, 14211.

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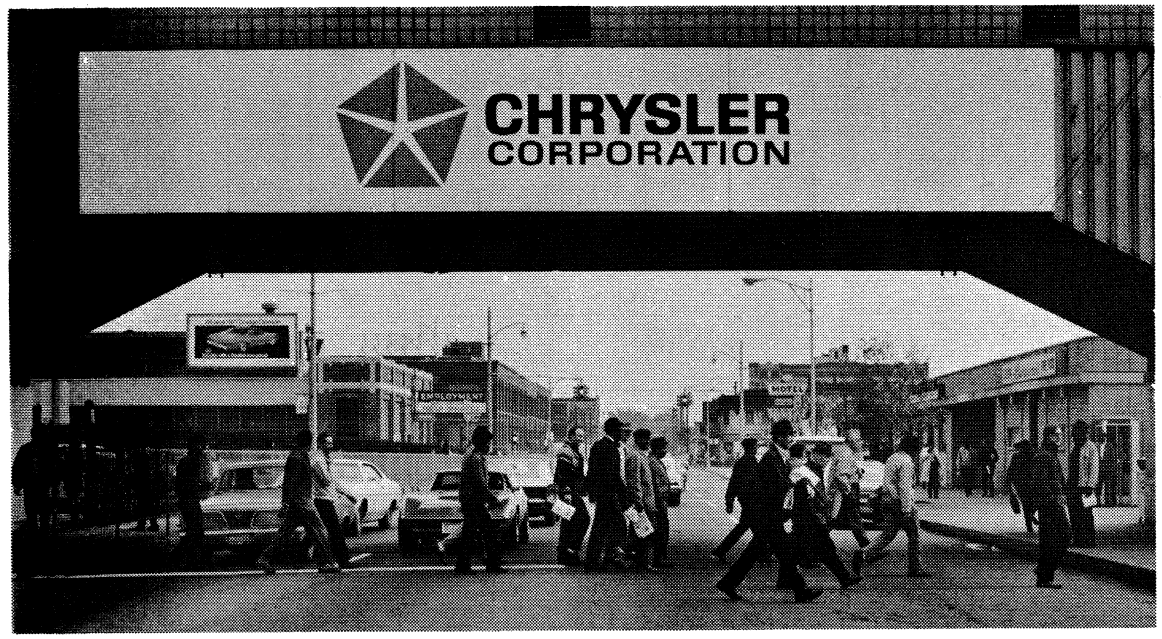
MAN HOCKS MEAT

TUCSON, Ariz. (LNS)--A pawnshop in Tucson reported on August 24 that a man pawned three T-bone steaks.

Donald Vingino, co-owner of the Arizona Traders Pawn Shop, said he gave the man $5 for the USDA choice steaks and promised to hold them for 30 days in a freezer at the shop.

"If he doesn't come back, I'll eat them," said -30-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